

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/ODF ALEXANDER F WATSON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 5441

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FOR UNDER SEC COOPER AND DAS HORMATS WITH PRES PARTY

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 13752 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK ALL EC CAPITALS JULY 13.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 13752

USEEC

PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, EEC
SUBJECT: EC POSITION ON UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 12717, (B) STATE 161676, (C) GENEVA
10556

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CASPARI IN-
FORMED THE MISSION REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF YESTERDAY'S
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL'S HIGH LEVEL NORTH-SOUTH GROUP RE-
GARDING THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW). CASPARI SAID
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THAT THE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S JULY 11
SPEECH AT ECOSOC (NOT YET AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION).
THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE NEW U.S. APPROACH WAS MORE
CONSTRUCTIVE FROM THE EC POINT OF VIEW THAN THE EARLIER
POSITION TRANSMITTED REF (B) BUT THERE WAS STILL SOME
CONCERN THAT THE U.S. APPROACH WOULD GIVE THE G-77 THE
OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE COW OR GIVE

RISE TO EXCESS EXPECTATIONS BY THE LDC'S AS TO WHAT THEY COULD OBTAIN IN THAT FORUM. THE MEMBER STATES AGREED ON A COMMON POSITION FOR UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS IN THE MARGIN OF THE ECOSOC MEETING IN GENEVA AND FOR THE JULY 18TH XCSS MEETING OF THE OECD IN PARIS. THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THIS POSITION ACCORDING TO CASPARI AND EC PERMDEL OFFICIALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S SPEECH IS "CONSIDERED AS A POSITIVE ELEMENT, CORRESPONDING ESSENTIALLY TO THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY, WHICH THE EC IS THEREFORE ABLE TO SUPPORT."

2. WHILE AGREEING WITH THE FIRST THREE PRINCIPLES ON PAGE 12 OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S SPEECH, THE EC PARTICIPANTS HAD RESERVATIONS ON THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE. THEY BELIEVE THAT AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE COW RESULT IN CONCRETE NEW PROPOSALS TO BE PUT FORWARD IN APPROPRIATE NEGOTIATING BODIES WOULD CAUSE THE COW TO DEGENERATE INTO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO TRY TO DEFINE SUCH PROPOSALS. THE MEMBER STATES PREFER THE NOTION THAT THE COW SHOULD RESULT IN PROGRESS OR IN A PROCESS LEADING TO PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS.

3. THE EC IS CONCERNED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REFERENCE ON PAGE 13 OF HIS SPEECH THAT THE COW SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSIDER SELECTED TOPICS WITH THE VIEW OF LEADING TO "ACTION OR TO FORMULATION OF NEW SOLUTIONS IN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FORA" COULD ALSO LEAD TO NEGOTIATIONS IN THE COW TO DEFINE THESE ACTIONS OR NEW SOLUTIONS. IN ADDITION, THEY FEAR THAT SUCH AN APPROACH COULD LEAD TO FALSE EXPECTATIONS AMONG THE G-77 AS TO THE BENEFITS THE COW CAN BRING THEM. ONCE AGAIN THE EC WOULD PREFER THE FORMULATION THAT THE COW SHOULD MERELY LEAD TOWARD RAPID PROGRESS IN OTHER FORA. (CASPARI SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO FIND SOME WAY TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT THAT THE COW CAN LEAD TO "ACTIONS" ELSEWHERE WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME GIVING THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS ABLE TO ACT ON ITS OWN).

4. THE COMMUNITY IS CONCERNED THAT THE REFERENCE ON PAGE 14 OF THE YOUNG SPEECH TO DISCUSSION OF ALL PROBLEM AREAS IN THE ADMITTEDLY LIMITED LIFETIME OF THE COW IS TOO INCLUSIVE. THE MEMBER STATES BELIEVE THAT THERE MUST BE SELECTIVITY OF SUBJECTS AND ACCEPTANCE THAT ON THOSE TOPICS WHERE THERE IS LITTLE OR NO PROSPECT FOR PROGRESS, THE COW HAD BETTER MOVE ON TO OTHER TOPICS.

5. THE EC CAN ACCEPT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S EMPHASIS ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AS AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE COW. SOME MEMBER STATES, HOWEVER, FEEL IT WOULD BE BETTER TO STICK WITH THE ORIGINAL AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDES PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES UNLESS THESE TOPICS ARE DROPPED BY A CLEAR CONSENSUS IN THE SAME WAY THEY WERE ORIGINALLY ADOPTED.

6. THE MEMBER STATES NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO REFERENCE IN THE YOUNG SPEECH ON THE FORMAT FOR REPORTS OF COW MEETINGS. THE EC PROPOSES THAT RATHER THAN TRY TO HAVE CONCLUSIONS OF SUCH MEETINGS, WHICH INEVITABLY LEADS TO NEGOTIATIONS, THE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD AGREE TO LIMIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEMSELVES TO SUMMARIES BY THE COW PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF EACH SESSION. WHILE COW PRESIDENT JAZAIRY IS RELUCTANT TO ADOPT THIS PROCEDURE, HE HAS NOT FORMALLY REFUSED. HINTON UNQUOTE CHRISOPHER

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